

### *Laguna Grant Application Tops USDA Meeting Agenda*

Washington, D.C. – Yesterday, Harry Teague met with Governor John W. Antonio of Laguna Pueblo and USDA Undersecretary Dallas Tonsager to discuss the Laguna Pueblo's grant application for funding to repair their water and wastewater system. The Laguna Pueblo's water infrastructure is in desperate need of repair. It has suffered repeated breaks that have at times left residents without water for several consecutive days and has caused sewage problems in several of the Pueblo's villages.

"Our Native American communities are so often overlooked when it comes to resources that many of us take for granted. It is simply not acceptable for communities to go without clean water or an updated wastewater system," said Harry Teague. "Between the water and waste system improvements and the jobs created by this project, this infrastructure renovation can have both an immediate and lasting impact on the community. I want to thank Undersecretary Tonsager for taking the time to meet with Governor Antonio and myself and I look forward to continuing to work with the USDA on this project."

Governor Antonio traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressman Teague,

Undersecretary Tonsager and other members of New Mexico's congressional delegation to discuss the Laguna Pueblo's need for water infrastructure improvements. The Pueblo has applied for a \$60 million in grant and loan money through the USDA's rural development program, which seeks to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

"Congressman Teague's presence at today's meeting was greatly appreciated as he is very familiar with our needs. He understands the needs of rural New Mexico, especially the needs of our Reservation," said Laguna Governor John Antonio. " Although the USDA faced with a multitude of similar funding requests, we are confident that by working with Congressman Teague and the rest of our Congressional delegation, we will find a solution to fix our water and wastewater system and bring it into compliance with minimum standards."